Family law

Family law (also called **matrimonial law** or the *law of domestic relations*) is an area of the law that deals with family matters and domestic relations.[1]

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Overview

Subjects that commonly fall under a nation's body of family law include:[2]

- Marriage, civil unions, and domestic partnerships:
  - Entry into legally recognized spousal and domestic relationships[1]
  - The termination of legally recognized family relationships and ancillary matters, including divorce, annulment, property settlements, alimony, child custody and visitation, child support and alimony awards[3]
- Adoption: proceedings to adopt a child and, in some cases, an adult.[4]
- Surrogacy: the law and process of giving birth as a surrogate mother[5]
- Child protective proceedings: court proceedings that may result from state intervention in cases of child abuse and child neglect[6]
- Juvenile law: Matters relating to minors including status offenses, delinquency, emancipation and juvenile adjudication[7]
- Paternity: proceedings to establish and disestablish paternity, and the administration of paternity testing[8]

This list is not exhaustive and varies depending on jurisdiction.

Conflict of laws

Issues may arise in family law where there is a question as to the laws of the jurisdiction that apply to the marriage relationship or to custody and divorce, and whether a divorce or child custody order is recognized under the laws of another jurisdiction.[9] For child custody, many nations have joined the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction in order to grant recognition to other member states' custody orders and avoid issues of parental kidnapping.[10]

See also

- Alimony
- Child custody
- Child support

- Divorce
- Family
- Family court
- Legal separation
- Legitimacy (family law)
- Marriage
- Merger doctrine (family law)
- Shared parenting
- Supervised visitation

Specific jurisdictions

- Algerian Family Code
- Family Court of Australia
  - Australian family law
- Family Law Act (Alberta, Canada)
- California Child Actor's Bill, or the Coogan Law
- Family law system in England and Wales
  - Children Act of 1989
- Malian Family Code
- Mudawana, the Moroccan Family Code
- The Philippines' Family Code of 1987
- Nashim, the order of the Mishnah outlining Jewish family law

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Further reading

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- Klaw, Margaret (2013). *Keeping It Civil: The Case of the Pre-nup and the Porsche & Other True Accounts from the Files of a Family Lawyer*. Algonquin Books. ISBN 978-1616202392.

External links

- Testimony of Barbara DaFoe Whitehead, Ph.D, Co-Director, National Marriage Project Rutgers University, before US Senate Subcommittee (https://web.archive.org/web/20050310041837/http://marriage.rutgers.edu/Publications/Pub%20Whitehead%20Testimony%20Apr%2004.htm)
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- R. Partain, "Comparative Family Law, Korean Family Law, and the Missing Definitions of Family", (2012) HongIk University Journal of Law, Vol. 13, No. 2. (http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2132173)
- "Hong Kong Family Court Tables (https://www.duxburyetc.hk/book/)" includes summary of Hong Kong family law principles, a guide to the recent case law and relevant statutes, and a glossary of relevant terms related to the Hong Kong family law.

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